

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 12816 011248Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01

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R 011209Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6782

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

JCS WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: UPI INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOT

1. IN A JUNE 28 INTERVIEW WITH UPI, FOLLOWING MEETING THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH AMBASSADR & DCM (BANGKOK 12589) PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOT DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESIDUAL U.S. MILITARY FORCE IN THAILAND AFTER THE DRAWDOWN. UPI SAYS KUKRIT DESCRIBED THIS PRESENCE AS BEING "PROBABLY IN THE FORM OF A DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE OR A JOINT MILITARY COMMITTEE, COMPRISED OF BOTH THAI AND U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS." KUKRIT IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THIS U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WILL NOT BE IN THE FORM OF BASES OR A FIGHTING FORCE...I THINK IT WILL HAVE TO BE UNDER THE WING OF THE U.S. MILITARY ATTACHE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY."

2. IN RESPONCE TO A QUERY CONCERNING THE PROBABLE SIZE OF THE RESIDUAL FORCE, THE PM STATED, "IT DEPENDS ON WHERE IT'S PLACED AND HOW FAR IT'S SCATTERED. I MEAN FOR 200 MEN TO BE PUT TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE, THAT IS BIG. BUT 2,000 MEN SCATTERED 10 HERE, 5 THERE...WOULDN'T CREATE THE IDEA OF BIGNESS."

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 12816 011248Z

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF RESI-

DUAL FORCE BY THE PRIME MINISTER. THE 200 AND 2,000 FIGURES WERE CERTAINLY OFF THE TOP OF KUKRIT'S HEAD, DESIGNED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT LARGE CONCENTRATIONS OF U.S. MILITARY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT THESE FIGURES PROBABLY GIVE A ROUGH INDICATION OF THE TERMS IN WHICH HE IS THINKING.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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